

For two and a quarter centuries, the society has set an impressive example for all physicians and served as a leader on countless issues that impact the health of our citizens. Early member physicians founded the Yale School of Medicine, the State's first general hospital—now known as Yale-New Haven Hospital—the world's first tumor registry, and many other medical milestones that have shaped the health of Connecticut and the Nation.

Most recently, the society has been at the forefront of efforts to combat the current addiction crisis and opioid abuse by working with policymakers to enact State laws tightening opioid prescribing, expanding knowledge and understanding of opioid addiction, and providing greater access to treatment. The society has also worked for many years to educate physicians, patients, and the general public on opioid abuse, as well as mental and behavioral health issues.

To its credit, the society goes beyond improving the quality of health services for the people of Connecticut. It has strongly advocated for affordable and accessible health insurance coverage while fighting against harmful consolidations of healthcare facilities that would result in less health service availability at a higher cost. The society is helping to address inequities in health services and disparities in health outcomes. Further, the society is a strong advocate for transparency throughout the entire healthcare insurance delivery system, ensuring its health services are easy to understand.

Steeped in rich history but always forward thinking, the Connecticut State Medical Society is a catalyst for positive change. I applaud the society's accomplishments and hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Connecticut State Medical Society for its 225 years of service.●

REMEMBERING CHARLES F. KNIGHT

● Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life and contributions of a great man who passed away from complications of Alzheimer's on September 12, 2017, at the age of 81.

Charles Knight, or Chuck, as he was known to everyone, might have been born across the river in Illinois and loved a second home in Glen Lake, MI, but he spent his life as a Missourian.

In 1973 Chuck Knight joined Emerson. At that time, he became the youngest CEO to head a U.S. billion-dollar corporation. Within 5 years, the business press was hailing the leadership of Chuck Knight, and it was appropriate to do so then, and for the full 27 years, he served as Emerson's CEO. Because he was so well regarded, he was sought out to serve on a number of corporate boards, including Anheuser-Busch, AT&T, IBM, Baxter International, BP, Caterpillar, Morgan Stanley, and the Olin Foundation.

Between 1973 and 2000, Emerson grew from a dozen divisions generating total

revenues of \$1 billion to more than 60 businesses with revenues totaling over \$15 billion. International sales grew from 12 percent of the total to almost 40 percent. Emerson's record of increased earnings per share and dividends for each year of Mr. Knight's tenure as CEO was among the longest in U.S. business.

Chuck was a passionate leader. In a 1989 cover story, *Fortune* wrote that his "intensity level is about 327 on a scale of 1 to 10." His intensity, passion, and, most likely, his integrity, inspired commitment and loyalty from his management team, his employees, his competitors, and his friends.

Chuck's passion extended to his adopted hometown of St. Louis, MO. He didn't just offer his support; Chuck provided his personal advocacy and leadership to many organizations, including the Matthews-Dickey Boys & Girls Club and the Annie Malone Children and Family Service Center, serving children in the city of St. Louis. He led the major capital campaign for Washington University in St. Louis, and for decades, he worked closely with the Olin Business School, where he helped fund the Charles F. Knight Executive Education Center. His efforts were always to make a real and lasting impact.

Chuck married his high school sweetheart in 1957. Their joint philanthropy has resulted in countless benefits to the entire St. Louis area, including the Joanne Knight Breast Health Center at the Siteman Cancer Center and the Charles F. and Joanne Knight Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at the Washington University School of Medicine. Chuck and Joanne have been leading examples of the importance of giving back to one's community.

Chuck is survived by his loving wife, Joanne, and his four children and their families. He will be remembered as a loving husband, a caring father, a passionate leader, and a great friend. He made a difference.●

REMEMBERING GENE SULLIVAN

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the life and legacy of Arkansan Gene Sullivan. Gene will forever be remembered as the great optimist with the can-do attitude and endless determination. There was no project too small and, certainly, no project too large that he wouldn't tackle with his trademark tenacity. Gene led a life dedicated to the outdoors and was a man of great faith.

While there are many remarkable stories that we remember about Gene, I want to share a personal letter that he sent to his grandchildren on his 81st birthday. On February 8, 2017, Gene wrote the following:

As I sit in my easy chair in the early morning of my 81st birthday, I give thanks to the Lord for how He has blessed me throughout my life with love and mercy rather than justice. I want to share with you some things I know to be true and pray that you will con-

sider them in your short journey through this life on earth.

(1) God's judgement of how you live your life is the only one that is really important.
(2) The Bible provides God's directions for having a successful life. Read it and live it.
(3) When you are older and look back, you will not regret any time you spent with family, serving the Lord and loving and serving others.

I love you and you are one of the blessings of my life.

He also included two Scriptures for them to read and contemplate.

Deuteronomy 11:1: "Therefore you shall love the LORD your God, and always keep His charge, His statutes, His precepts, and His commandments [it is your obligation to Him]."

1 John 4:20: "Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen."

As we mourn the loss of this Arkansas leader, I think it would serve us all well to reflect upon the timeless wisdom that he passed along to his grandchildren on his 81st birthday.●

RECOGNIZING PJM INTERCONNECTION

● Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I would like to take this moment for the Senate to recognize and honor the work of the PJM Interconnection and its 600 employees in Valley Forge, PA. This month, the company celebrates the 90th anniversary of its founding, as well as the 20th anniversary of its formation as an independent grid operator.

PJM is a world-class institution that oversees the largest power grid in North America. PJM performs the critical function of keeping the lights on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for more than 65 million people in all or portions of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and the District of Columbia.

PJM began in 1927 when three utilities realized the benefits and efficiencies possible by interconnecting to share their generating resources and formed the world's first continuing power pool. Since then, PJM's work has been dedicated to ensuring that reliable electricity is available at a reasonable price.

In 1997, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved PJM as the Nation's first fully functioning independent system operator. ISOs operate but do not own transmission systems in order to provide open access to the grid for nonutility users.

Since that beginning of three utilities, PJM has grown to more than 1,000 members. Those members represent transmission owners, generation owners, consumers, and residential and commercial customers in each of its 13-state region.

PJM has three simple goals: keeping the lights on, administering the buying